CANUCKS TRIUMPH OVER PANTHERS, PG 11

Workology

B.C. man lives techie's dream

pg 12

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Kanye wants to intern at fashion house

pg 14

City gets a Canuck hello from winter

HO. HO, HO For the next week or so, Vancouver is going to look and feel a bit more like the rest of Canada in the days leading up to Christmas — cold and snowy.

A heavy dose of winter blanketed the Lower Mainland on the weekend, snarling traffic, delaying flights and turning roads into ice rinks.

Lisa Coldwells, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said yesterday that while another dump of snow isn't in the cards, the cold weather's sticking around — and so, accordingly, is the frost on the ground.

"We will have very cold temperatures in the Vancouver area, with lows of -8 C and daytime highs of -5 C.

Coldwells said the airport had the most snow locally at 11 centimetres. On Vancouver Island, Nanaimo was hit with 30 centimetres.

Drew Snider, spokesperson for TransLink, said the icy and slippery road conditions meant some buses had to be rerouted on the weekend.

"(City crews) did an excellent job on getting on the situation (with sand and salt)," he said.

Snider added that today, commuters should give themselves extra time to get to work because when driving conditions are bad, more people leave their cars at home.

KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Fluctuations

- More than 40 centimetres of snow fell on Vancouver on Dec. 29, 1996.
- On Christmas Day, 1972, Vancouver got nearly 90 millimetres of rain.

MAIN PHOTO: JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER INSET: SHANE MACKICHAN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Three people were left without a home after this house in Burnaby was gutted by fire. Inset: A resident of the Bevan Street house is assisted by firefighters early yesterday morning. Heavy snow and freezing temperatures made fighting the fire difficult.

3 lose 'everything' in blaze

JEFF HODSON
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A house fire in Burnaby during yesterday's early morning snowstorm has left three people without a home just as Christmas approaches.

Chris Butler, whose mother Margaret lives in the basement of the white stucco house at 7556 Bevan St., said his mother was reading in her bedroom when her smoke alarm started beeping.

"She opened the door to her suite and it was a wall of black smoke," said Butler. "She grabbed her shoes, coat and purse and ran out the door. … Her whole life was in that house. We've lived in that house since 1980 — all our baby pictures, her father's uniform from the war. She lost everything."

> **"Her whole life was in that house."**
> Chris Butler, son of resident

The upstairs tenants, a mother, her pre-teen son and the son's sleepover friend, also escaped without injury. Butler said the tenants didn't have insurance and lost everything in the blaze.

Butler, who lives two doors away, said his mother — hysterical and screaming that her house was burning down — started pounding on his front door at about 1 a.m.

When he arrived, the house was in flames and the upstairs tenant was screaming about her cat, which was inside the house about 10 feet from the door, meowing.

Butler ran inside and plucked the cat from the burning house. He said his handprint was slightly melted into the cat's fur where he grabbed it.

"It probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, but it was all they had left."

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but is not suspicious, said Burnaby assistant fire chief Darrell Smith.

Heavy snow and freezing temperatures made battling the fire difficult.

"It was tough and cold," said Smith. "But we rotated our crews in and out and kept everybody fresh."

Luongo suffers injury setback

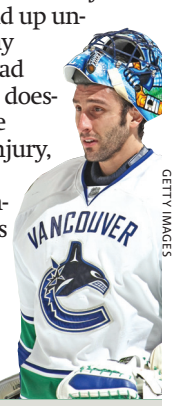
HOCKEY The captain of the Vancouver Canucks could be out of action until as late as the end of January, goaltender Roberto Luongo said yesterday.

Luongo, who injured his groin in a Nov. 22 win against the Pittsburgh Penguins, is listed as week-to-week and speculation has him remaining out of the lineup from anywhere from four weeks to after the all-star break in late January, TSN reported.

The star goaltender, who had been rehabbing his groin, skating and taking shots with the team, pulled himself after 20 minutes of practice on Wednesday and did not travel with the team to Edmonton Saturday.

Luongo said up until Wednesday everything had felt great. He doesn't believe he rushed the injury, but will stay off the ice until his groin is 100 per cent healed.

METRO VANCOUVER SPORTS PG 11



GETTY IMAGES

Going Green pg 9

Canada 'wins' Fossil again

Comment pg 8

New ferry firm wants to dock

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Councillor wants Punjabi district car-free on Sundays
Vancouver Coun. Andrea Reimer said she plans to introduce a motion this week to ban cars from Vancouver's Punjabi district on Sundays next summer. The initiative is similar to Car-Free Sundays, which is already an annual tradition on Commercial Drive. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Local

Mountie charged in accidental shooting

An off-duty Mountie who accidentally shot her gun while inside her Langley home is facing charges of careless use of a firearm, RCMP said. The bullet, fired on July 10, entered a neighbour's home and lodged itself in the bathroom's doorframe. There were people in the house at the time but no one was injured. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

BOBSLED Members of Jamaica's bobsledding team arrived in Vancouver on Saturday and will spend the next three months in Pemberton training for the 2010 Winter Olympics. A crowd of supporters greeted them at the airport. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video George W. Bush's artful dodge of shoes hurled at him by an Iraqi at **metronews.ca/world**

Video Canadians struggle with a quiz on the basics of our political system at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 12
Lotto Super 7: 1, 13, 23, 27, 34, 36 & 37 Bonus 39
Extra: 24, 51, 70, 97
Saturday, Dec. 13
Lotto 6/49: 4, 15, 34, 36, 43 & 47 Bonus 9
BC 49: 8, 10, 13, 34, 41 & 42 Bonus 9
Extra: 13, 33, 82, 96
These results are not official.

Lions Gate Bridge **Winter wakeup**

ANDY CLARK/REUTERS

People walk their dog in the snow as a ship passes under the Lions Gate Bridge yesterday. Vancouverites woke up to about 10 centimetres of snow.

Accused in Christmas-party shooting in court today

APPEARANCE A Vancouver man is appearing in court today to face first-degree murder charges in connection with the shooting death of his former boss at a company's Christmas party.

Benjamin Banky, 40, the CEO of TallGrass Distribution, was killed after a former employee, Eric Allen Kirkpatrick, 61, allegedly walked into the party in False Creek and opened fire.

Kirkpatrick had been fired the previous day.

Police blocked off an area around East 5th Avenue and Quebec Street while negotiating with Kirkpatrick.

Banky was described as "a compassionate and dedicated leader" in a media statement released by TallGrass Distribution, which called his death a "tragic and senseless loss."

The company distributes natural health products.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Shelters filling up to capacity

Clothing donations urged

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Homeless shelters around the Lower Mainland have had to open their emergency beds to accommodate an influx of people trying to get out of the cold.

Keela Keeping, spokeswoman with Union Gospel Mission, said yesterday that the shelter is at capacity.

"The emergency shelter process is in place ... and we had an extra staff (on the weekend).

She said the shelter normally sleeps a maximum of 40 people, and 20 more beds have been added.

Keeping added with the onset of winter, the shelter needs more donations of clean, new winter coats, blankets and sleeping bags, as well as gift cards for needy families.

"(Anytime) anyone who can help us help them, we're so grateful."

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

COLLISION A 27-year-old Burnaby man is in critical condition after losing control of his pick-up truck and slamming into an East Vancouver church early yesterday morning. The accident happened around 4 a.m. at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church on East 1st Avenue. Emergency crews used the Jaws of Life to free the driver. METRO NEWS SERVICE

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Olympic venue opens to public

Thousands of people skated at the Richmond Olympic Oval this weekend during various public sessions. The $178-million facility opened to the public on Friday and will host its first test event in the new year before becoming the home of speedskating for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. METRO VANCOUVER

No charges in Taser incident

The four RCMP officers who Tasered and physically subdued Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski before he died at Vancouver airport will not be charged.

"There is a substantial body of independent evidence which supports that the officers in question were lawfully engaged in their duties when they encountered Mr. Dziekanski," said a statement from the B.C. attorney general's office.

"The force they used to subdue and restrain him was reasonable and necessary in all the circumstances."

> **"The force they used to subdue and restrain him was reasonable and necessary in all the circumstances."**
> Attorney general's statement

The Polish embassy in Ottawa issued a statement saying it found the decision most disappointing.

"We would be interested to know, for example, if it is in accordance with the rules to use (a) Taser five times, including twice towards a person who is already lying on the ground convulsing," it said.

Dziekanski died of cardiac arrest.

An autopsy said possible contributing factors included the stress of being hit by Taser blasts and then restrained.

REUTERS

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A pedestrian walks by AuBar in Vancouver yesterday, shortly after three men were seen smashing the front window and setting the bar on fire.

Three men arrested in arson attempt

CRIME Three men were arrested in North Vancouver yesterday shortly after witnesses reported seeing people smashing the front window of a downtown Vancouver nightclub and setting it on fire.

The attack happened at AuBar on Seymour Street around 10 a.m.

Vancouver police Const. Tim Fanning said the fire damage was minimal, but that the bar had water damage.

The suspects were tracked down because a witness managed to catch their licence-plate number.

METRO VANCOUVER

External audit ordered of Olympic Village deal

GAMES An external auditor has been appointed to review the financial arrangements between the City of Vancouver and the developers of the Olympic Village, Mayor Gregor Robertson has announced.

KPMG, the city's external auditors, have been asked to examine the decision by the previous council to give a $100-million loan guarantee to Millennium Development.

"This review is being undertaken in line with my commitment to provide the citizens of Vancouver with as much information as possible about the financial arrangements consistent with the city's legal and financial interests," Robertson said in a statement.

Robertson added the review will begin immediately.

METRO VANCOUVER

City manager dropped by Robertson

POLITICS Judy Rogers, Vancouver's city manager since 1999, has been replaced as Mayor Gregor Robertson continues to enact change at city hall.

Dr. Penny Ballem, a clinical hematologist who served as the British Columbia Deputy Minister of Health from 2001-2006, has been named to the position.

While no specific reason was given for the change, both Robertson and Rogers have said the move had nothing to do with the Olympic Village bailout.

"Judy Rogers has made an enormous contribution to the City of Vancouver over the course of her 20-year career here," Robertson said in a statement. "She built a talented and dedicated professional team over the years, and she has worked hard to help make Vancouver the great city it is today. I wish her the very best."

Rogers is working co-operatively to facilitate the transition.

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Alberta Grits get new leader

Calgary-Mountain View MLA David Swann has been appointed leader of the Alberta Liberal party. The Grits haven't formed the government in that province since they won the provincial election of 1917. METRO CANADA

Canada

Tories widen lead

The federal Conservatives led by Stephen Harper, left, would win a strong majority in Parliament if elections were held today, according to a poll showing the new leader of the opposition Liberals has done little to boost public support. Canadians favour the Conservatives over the Liberals by 45 per cent to 26 per cent, an Ipsos Reid poll showed. The NDP had the backing of 12 per cent. REUTERS

Frosty The Snowman
cbc.ca/holiday
Tonight at 8:30 CBC

Families, country mourn heroes

With a nephew killed in Afghanistan and a son headed for the same war zone, a grieving and frustrated Russell Higgins says Canadian soldiers are being wasted on a foolish mission.

Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin

Pte. Justin Jones

Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton

Reached at his home yesterday in Upper Musquodoboit, N.S., Higgins said, "I don't figure our boys should be over there to start with. It's a fight that can't be won. They have been doing the same thing over there since the Crusades. You can't win a war against people that don't mind dying."

Higgins' nephew Cpl. Thomas James Hamilton, 26, was one of three Canadian soldiers killed Saturday in a roadside bomb. Pte. John Michael Roy Curwin of Mount Uniacke, N.S., and Pte. Justin Peter Jones, 21, of Baie Verte, N.L. also died.

The deaths came just eight days after Cpl. Mark McLaren, Warrant Officer Robert Wilson and Pte. Demetrios Diplaros died when their armoured vehicle struck an improvised explosive device on the same stretch of highway west of Kandahar city.

Canada's death toll from the Afghanistan mission now stands at 103 soldiers and one diplomat.

"My son is getting ready to go over," Higgins said of his 26-year-old son Peter. "What can be said? You can only do what you can do."

A Canadian Forces spokesperson said it is not the department's policy to publicly respond to comments made by a grieving family member such as Higgins, but added, "We provide as much support to the families, to ensure that we can do whatever is in our power to assist them."

All three victims were based at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VIDEO First priority for military is taking care of victims' families at metronews.ca/canada

Investigate alleged abuse of Afghan boys, lawyer urges

MILITARY The International Criminal Court should launch its own investigation into allegations some Canadian officers serving in Afghanistan told subordinates to look the other way when Afghan soldiers and local interpreters sodomized young boys, says one of Canada's leading human-rights lawyers.

University of British Columbia international law and politics expert Michael Byers, who was among of a group of academics who sought to have former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet detained as a war criminal, said he plans to ask the ICC to begin its own inquiry into the charges.

In a story published yesterday by a Toronto newspaper, former Canadian soldier Tyrel Braaten said during his tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2006, he witnessed Afghan interpreters bringing young boys inside buildings at Forward Operating Base Wilson, a remote Canadian base outside Kandahar. The boys were then sodomized by the interpreters and Afghan soldiers, Braaten said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Cultural'

- Other Canadian soldiers have complained that officers told them not to get involved because sodomy was tantamount to "cultural differences."

Chalk River reactor ramps ups production of medical isotopes

HEALTH Health Canada has warned the medical community of a global shortfall in the supply of medical isotopes, and Ontario's Chalk River facility has ramped up production to help alleviate the problem.

The Chalk River nuclear reactor is producing 35 to 40 per cent more isotopes than usual to compensate.

"We're not only producing for North America, we're producing for global demand," said Dale Coffin, of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

Medical isotopes are radioactive material that can be used to scan the body for tumours and other illnesses, or to treat cancer through radiation therapy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Edmonton **Cold snap**

BEN LEMPHERS/FOR METRO CANADA

John Gamble pauses for a moment after a chilly cross-country ski in Gold Bar Park yesterday afternoon. Only a handful braved the cold-snap to ski the park's trails — and Edmontonians can expect the deep-freeze to last into mid-week. Temperatures hit a low of –30 C, or –41 C with wind chill.

News in brief

COMMISSION Former Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci is set to move on a streamlined process to choose the new head of the $60-million truth commission into abuse at native residential schools, CBC News Online reports. Sources say the commission should be on track by next month.

QUEBEC A law requiring Quebec drivers to have winter tires installed on their cars takes effect today. The law, the first of its kind in the country, is creating tire shortages in other regions and is proving to be a boon to self-storage companies as drivers try to find places to store their all-season tires. Ignoring the law can result in a $300 fine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Experts gain insight from rats with hearing defects
Scientists have managed to train rats with hearing defects to pick out sounds from background noise, giving a possible solution to hearing-impaired children with difficulties in learning language. REUTERS

World

British PM speaks out

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown blamed Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba for last month's deadly Mumbai attacks, and called for a new British-Pakistan "pact against terror." REUTERS

Russian police block protests

Police yesterday blocked Kremlin opponents from holding unlicensed marches in Russia's two main cities over the economic crisis, witnesses said, and detained more than 150 activists.

Marches of discontent have become a trademark protest by a coalition of small opposition groups, led by former world chess champion Garry Kasparov and writer Eduard Limonov, the head of outlawed National-Bolshevik party.

Witnesses said that police trucks sealed off two squares in central Moscow, where the Other Russia coalition wanted to start its march. Police cordons prevented a handful of opposition supporters from entering the squares.

Police detained two dozen elderly Soviet officers at Pushkinskaya square and opposition activists, including Limonov, at Triumfalnaya Square two kilometres away.

Fewer than 500 protesters later turned up at the Chernyshevsky Square chanting: "No to police state!" and "Authorities, answer for the crisis!" The rally lasted for an hour and ended peacefully.

Russian news agencies said more than 150 were detained in Moscow and St. Petersburg altogether.

Police detentions often do not last more than several hours and end in moderate fines. REUTERS

ALEXANDER DEMIANCHUK /REUTERS

People wear face masks with the word "censorship" during a protest in St. Petersburg yesterday. Police blocked attempts by radical Kremlin opponents, buoyed by a looming economic crisis, to hold banned marches in Russia's two biggest cities and detained opposition activists.

Iraqi reporter hurls insults, shoes at Bush in Baghdad

VISIT An Iraqi reporter called visiting U.S. President George W. Bush a "dog" in Arabic yesterday and threw his shoes at him during a news conference in Baghdad.

Iraqi security officers and U.S. secret service agents leapt at the man and dragged him struggling and screaming out of the room where Bush was giving a news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

The shoes missed their target about 4½ metres away. One sailed over Bush's head as he stood next to Maliki and smacked into the wall behind him. "It doesn't bother me," Bush said, urging everyone to calm down.

When asked about the incident shortly after, Bush made light of it. "I didn't feel the least threatened by it," he said.

Bush arrived in Baghdad earlier that day on a farewell visit before he leaves office. REUTERS

To Afghanistan

- After his trip to Iraq, Bush made an unannounced visit to Afghanistan, bringing assurances the U.S. will stand by the war-torn nation.

VIDEO George W. Bush's artful dodge of shoes hurled at him by an Iraqi at metronews.ca/world

News in brief

HONG KONG Dozens of people were hurt after two bottles of an acidic liquid were dropped from a building into a busy commercial district on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA Australia vowed today to push ahead with the most sweeping carbon trade scheme outside Europe in 2010, resisting calls for a delay. REUTERS

Greece's riot response lacking: Poll

GREECE A week of violence has taken its toll on the fragile conservative government, with opinion polls showing yesterday many think authorities mishandled the worst rioting in decades.

The Dec. 6 killing of a 15-year-old boy by police unleashed a wave of unrest by thousands of students and anarchists across the country, feeding growing anger over political scandals and the impact of a global recession on Greece's economy.

While the violence has generally subsided in the past few days, small groups of hooded youngsters hurling fire bombs are still rampaging at night in the capital, fighting running battles with riot police and smashing shops. Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis has pledged to ensure security, rebuffing calls for early elections, but he has drawn criticism for not acting quickly and decisively to tackle the revolt.

An opinion poll published by Ethnos newspaper yesterday said 83.3 percent of Greeks were unhappy with the government's response.

Discontent was high — 65.6 per cent — even among supporters of Karamanlis' New Democracy party, which has a one-seat majority in parliament.

Another survey, in Kathimerini daily, put disapproval of the government at 68 per cent with 60 per cent of those polled saying the riots were a social uprising rather than an isolated outburst by a small fringe of violent protesters. REUTERS

Aftermath

- Eight days of clashes have caused 200 million euros of damage in Athens alone.

Truce over, Hamas leader warns

DAMASCUS Hamas's leader in exile was quoted as saying yesterday it would not renew a six-month-old truce with Israel in Gaza this week, raising the prospect of increased cross-border fighting.

However, officials of the Palestinian Islamist group based in the Gaza Strip took a less definitive line, leaving open the possibility of negotiation before the pact ends on Friday.

Israel said it was ready to prolong the arrangement, which was brokered by Egypt in June but has frayed in recent weeks, following rocket fire from Gaza and Israeli attacks in the enclave.

The statement quoting Hamas chief Khaled Meshaal as saying in Syria that the truce was dead appeared to take his colleagues in Gaza by surprise. REUTERS

Blagojevich not planning to quit

POLITICS Scandal-plagued Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich will not resign today, his spokesman said yesterday, but pressure continued to grow on the governor to step aside.

Blagojevich was arrested last week on charges of conspiracy to swap political favours for cash, including the Senate seat being vacated by Barack Obama. REUTERS

Notice of Security Alarm System By-Law Regulations

If you own or possess a security alarm system within the city of Vancouver - Whether monitored or not - the following bylaw information applies to you:

Requirement for Alarm Permit
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(a) install or place a security alarm system in a building, structure, or premises without first obtaining an alarm permit for such system under this By-law; or
(b) possess or use a security alarm system without holding an alarm permit for such system issued under this By-law.

Fines
40. Every person who commits an offence against this By-law is punishable on conviction by a fine of not less than $100.00 and not more than $2,000.00 for each offence.

Fines for continuing offence
41. Every person who commits an offence of a continuing nature against this By-law is liable to a fine not exceeding $50.00 for each day such offence is continued.

Program Overview: In an effort to reduce false alarms, the City of Vancouver implemented Security Alarm Bylaw No. 7111 on July 5th, 1993. Under the Bylaw **a Permit is mandatory for any premise with an alarm system, whether monitored or not, within the City of Vancouver.** It is an alarm user's responsibility to purchase/renew an alarm permit annually. There are three classifications of Alarm Permits currently priced as follows: Residential - $17.55, Small Commercial (with premises less than 140 square metres in size) - $29.25, and Large Commercial with premises greater than 140 square metres in size) - $58.50.

For more information please contact:
The False Alarm Reduction Program
#165 – 555 W. 12th Avenue (City Square Mall), Vancouver, BC V5Z 3X7
Phone: (604) 871-6150 Fax: (604) 871- 6152
For more information about Security Alarm System Bylaw No. 7111,
please check out the City of Vancouver website at: www.vancouver.bc.ca

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Comment & Views

Comment

Coalition of thoughts

HineSight

Anne Hines

This morning, my friend, Rob, called. Our conversation went something like this:

Rob: Hi, am I interrupting anything?

Me: I'm writing.

Rob: Good, I thought you might be busy. Something alarming's happened.

This could mean either No. 1, beer's gone up a cent a bottle, or No. 2, Rob's started dating again.

Rob: I'm worried about what's happening with our government.

It's No. 2. My friend Rob is a dear, sweet, clueless man who feels the way to a woman's heart is to agree with everything she says. Works for me.

Me: What happened to the vegan you were seeing?

Rob: She complained about the restaurant I'd picked so I suggested we just go forage for nuts and berries in the park.

Me: Where did you want to take her?

Rob: The Keg. They've got lettuce. I think. Anyway, I went out with this woman who says if this coalition government takes over, it's going to be very bad for kids.

Me: Because third graders will have to learn to spell Ignatieff?

Rob: Plus, it will show that the government of this country can be replaced at any time. You know what that's called?

Me: I'll go out on a limb here … democracy?

Rob: No, no, chaos.

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference.

Rob: So she says what we have to do is invade Quebec.

I pause. I figure there are two possible responses. No. 1, "You had fewer nuts with the vegan," or No. 2, "Uh … what?" I opt for No. 2.

Rob: We must attack. Shut down Quebec's ability to have a say in government.

Me: This is about you wanting to wear your Halloween costume again, isn't it?

Rob: No. Not entirely.

Me: So, she wants to protect Canada by denying rights to Canadians? There's a word for that.

Rob: Decisive?

Me: OK … or maybe, "insane."

Rob: She says if we don't deal with Quebec, other groups may start thinking they can hang onto their language and traditions. Canada could become multicultural.

Me: It is.

Rob: Oh … right.

Me: Sweetie, get some information and think this through for yourself. You can still wear the costume. But maybe just around the house. Any other dates lined up?

Rob: Tonight I'm going to a séance with a woman who thinks spirits should be allowed to vote.

Tomorrow, I'm just not answering the phone.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

David vs. Goliath, or fog of bureaucracy?

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

Last week, while TransLink was talking up expansion plans and funding needs for the future, it was also taking some heat on a very different issue, and from an unlikely source.

An upstart ferry service is crying foul over the way it claims it is being treated by Metro Vancouver's transit authority.

Coastal Link Ferries, which operates a walk-on service daily between Bowen Island and Coal Harbour in downtown Vancouver, wants to pick up and drop off passengers at an unused dock at the Waterfront Station SeaBus terminal.

The prime location would allow its customers to link up with SkyTrain and buses, not to mention the popular SeaBus service.

The problem is, despite its persistence in trying to iron out a deal with TransLink for the space, Coastal Link — which plans on expanding its service to the Sunshine Coast and Port Moody — has so far heard nothing.

And that leaves Peter Green, Coastal Link's director of marketing and communications, feeling frustrated and perplexed.

"We want to pay them to use the dock," he says. "Can't we find a way to make this work now?"

He and Coastal Link owner Ihab Shaker appeared before the TransLink board earlier this month to find out why they were, as Green puts it, "being ignored."

He maintains that Coastal Link received no explanation as to why it was getting the cold shoulder.

So I asked TransLink's Ken Hardie about Green's concerns. According to Hardie, the company has not provided the transit authority with enough information to date.

So is this saga less David and Goliath, and more the old story of small enterprise sailing into the fog of government bureaucracy?

It's too early to tell.

But at least one thing is certain: Given its maritime setting, Metro Vancouver is woefully under-served by passenger ferry transit.

That's especially clear when the region is stacked up against a port city like Sydney, Australia, where a flourishing ferry network moves millions of commuters around annually.

TransLink is aware of the role passenger ferries can play in undoing our region's transportation crunch. Its 2004 Vancouver Harbour Passenger Marine study made the case for improved ferry service — which would reduce the need for peak hour buses.

So a deal for the dock in 2008 would be, as Shaker puts it, "a win-win situation" — not only for his company and TransLink, but for coastal commuters as well.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics.

Letters

Women deserve a larger role in Canadian politics

Recent letters have expressed a sense of pride that more women are becoming involved in Canadian political discussions.

As a young female and recent political science undergraduate, I would like to suggest maybe it is not female Canadians that are uninterested in politics, but maybe those who are interested do not feel they are offered a fair chance to contribute.

I believe senior level Canadian government roles are mainly held by male employees. Just as the boys would dominate the field in gym class, I feel men have dominated the House of Commons. If you gave us more of a chance to hold the ball, maybe we could have more of a chance to score.

AMINI KHANNA, NORTH YORK, ONT.

Feels like the sky is falling for baby boom generation

Re: Blame the Boomers (Dec. 3). I think we've taken a very generalized approach to this generational argument. Being a product of the baby boom generation, it's certainly difficult not to be a little jaded. I have witnessed my parents work their lives away, push their stress and relationship levels to incredible limits. With the current economic downturn and lifetime earnings being flushed down the gutter, it's difficult to imagine myself following such an unrewarding and predictable path.

We're a generation that was told the sky is the limit. It didn't take me long to realize that was all a lie.

PETER REYNOLDS, RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

Will MPs continue to collect a cheque during hiatus?

As a gesture to help the economy, will members of Parliament be proroguing their salaries during their extended leave of absence?

BERNIE MERRETT, TORONTO

Sullivan's column turns out to be a thorny issue

Re: Let's Retire The Queen (Dec. 10)

Perhaps Mr. Sullivan should just move south to the United States and ignore hundreds of years of shared history and a place in the Commonwealth of Nations if he finds the Queen to be such a thorn in his side.

TOM POKORNY, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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One Million Acts of Green hits halfway point

The One Million Acts of Green recently marked a significant milestone, surpassing 500,000 acts of green registered online at www.onemillionactsofgreen.com. This represents a reduction of approximately 25,000,000 kilograms of greenhouse gases. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

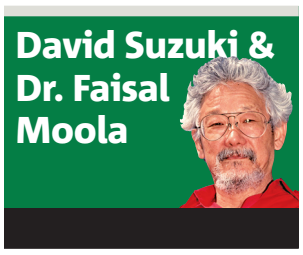
Energy saving tips

With government rebates for programmable thermostats, you could save almost a $100 per year on heating costs, according to Direct Energy. And don't forget your furnace — an annual maintenance and cleaning can extend the life of a furnace by several years and prevent untimely breakdowns this holiday season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

The trouble with Alberta's tarsands

ScienceMatters



If you want to be scared, you don't need to watch a horror movie or read the latest Stephen King best-seller.

Real terror can be found by simply firing up Google Earth. By mousing over and zooming in, you can see what Alberta's tarsands look like from space.

It is not a pretty sight. In fact, it's scary — and for good reason.

A recent book by celebrated journalist Andrew Nikiforuk, Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent (published by Greystone Books and the David Suzuki Foundation), explores what these grey spots on Google Earth mean to Canada's environment and economy. It's an important book, one that every Canadian should read to find out how the world's largest energy project will affect us.

The scale of the Alberta tarsands project is unprecedented in Canadian history. Alberta's "blue-eyed sheiks," as the oil-industry elite are known, stand to make billions of dollars from carving up northern Alberta in order to meet U.S. demand for oil. But these dollars pale in comparison to the environmental value that is being squandered at the expense of petro dollars.

The main tarsands deposits are at three sites in Alberta: Peace River, Cold Lake and Athabasca. The Athabasca region contains the largest deposit of crude bitumen in the world.

All this bitumen, a complex mixture of molecules from prehistoric life, is a geological miracle with which Canada has been blessed. But instead of safeguarding this resource, we are using it up. And we are creating an environmental catastrophe that will take centuries to recover from ... if we recover at all.

It's estimated that two tonnes of earth must be excavated to produce one barrel of thick tar-like bitumen. And it requires as much as three barrels of fresh water from the Athabasca River to make one barrel of bitumen. It also takes a huge amount of energy to extract the oil from the sands.

Now think about this: Each day Canada exports one million barrels of bitumen to the United States.

With all the money being made from the tarsands, very little of it seems to be reinvested in renewable energy that comes from wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal sources. If anything, we could be investing this money in low-carbon projects so we won't have to pull every bit of bitumen from the ground.

REUTERS PHOTO

Heavy equipment is used to mine tarsands at Syncrude's Aurora mine near Fort McMurray, Alta., in this file photo. David Suzuki says Alberta's tarsands are a scary sight for the environment.

When my children were younger, they'd often ask me about the bogeyman — a mythical evil spirit who would lie in wait under their beds when the lights went out. But maybe the bogeyman isn't some scary creature.

Maybe the bogeyman is simply a man in a suit trying to satisfy his shareholders, make a profit, and cosy up to federal politicians so he can continue doing his work without having to answer to his environmental crimes.

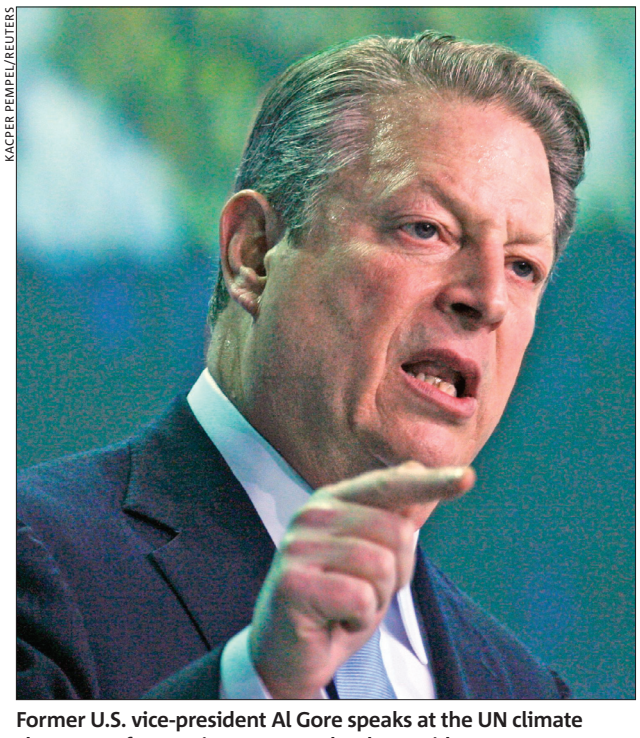
Or maybe there's something more frightening to consider. Perhaps the bogeyman is us — the public that places the short-term economic value of the tarsands above the priceless value of our environment and our health.

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at www.davidsuzuki.org.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

More action needed, Gore tells climate talks

KACPER PEMPEL/REUTERS



Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore speaks at the UN climate change conference in Poznan, Poland, on Friday.

Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore urged weary climate delegates to agree to a new climate treaty next year and drew loud cheers on the last day of difficult two-week UN climate talks on Friday.

The talks were on course to meet a minimum goal, to sign off on a fund to help poor nations prepare for global warming, but they were likely to delay any decision on climate targets.

Gore urged 145 environment ministers gathered in the western Polish city of Poznan to put aside climate blame squabbles, which have marred the talks for years and agree to a climate treaty in Copenhagen next December.

"The struggle is palpable here in Poznan," he said.

"It can be done, it must be done," said the 2000 U.S. presidential candidate, climate crusader and 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"We now face a crisis that makes it abundantly clear that increased CO2 emissions anywhere are a threat to the integrity of this planet's climate balance everywhere.

"As a result, the old divide between the North and South, between developed and developing countries is a divide that must become obsolete."

He said the world's two biggest carbon emitters, China and the United States, were both ready to lead the fight against climate change. The UN talks are meant to push a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which limits neither country.

REUTERS

Canada continues to be a 'fossil'

Eco-Minded

Will Christmas come late for Canadians and the environment? The possibility of a coalition government between the left and the Greens offers the chance for a significant turnaround from the Conservative's weak environmental policies, whether the coalition takes power or the Conservatives are scared into change.

One of the Harper government's first actions was to announce that it would not bother to meet Canada's obligations to fight climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.

We have attracted global shame for putting the world at risk of dangerous climate change. Canada just received another Fossil of the Day award for its backward climate change policy and for obstructing United Nations climate negotiations in Poland.

In stark contrast to the Conservative plan, the coalition is willing to set absolute limits on greenhouse gases through cap-and-trade, and to make steep cuts to emissions.

All economies ultimately depend on ecosystems, especially natural resource-dependent economies such as Canada's. Yet Canada consistently scores at the bottom of developed nations in its environmental laws and policies. As the economy falters, we need to devote more attention to environmental protection, not less. A coalition with a pro-environment agenda offers a more secure future, economically.

So whether you voted NDP, Green, Liberal or Conservative, pro-environment policies serve our interests as Canadians. Without action on climate change, a white Christmas will eventually be only a dream.

Facts

- 64 per cent of Canadians disagree climate change efforts should be cut back due to the economic crisis.
- The Sierra Club ranked the Conservative party in last place with an F+ for its climate-change policy in the recent federal election.
- Canada has "won" 60 Fossil of the Day awards since 1999.
- A new report from the Pembina Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation shows that Canada's economy can grow while tackling climate change.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC. Jordan Tam is an MA student in the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at UBC.

Federal, Ontario governments reach auto deal

The federal government and Ontario have reached a deal to offer proportional funds to Canada's auto industry if a proposed aid package is approved in Washington, Industry Minister Tony Clement said. Clement said the proposed aid to Canada's ailing auto sector would amount to approximately 20 per cent of the U.S. proposal. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

China eyes money-supply growth

China aims to increase its money supply by 17 per cent in 2009, the cabinet said, as it unveiled a broad blueprint for easing financial conditions to help oil the wheels of the world's fourth-largest economy. This follows a pledge by the top leadership last week to take measures to stimulate domestic demand as the economy slows, and comes on the heels of a 4-trillion yuan ($586 billion US) stimulus package announced last month. REUTERS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Autoparts makers on razor's edge

Shares of Canadian autoparts makers have taken a beating due to the decline in the U.S. auto sector, but the companies will face a much harsher reality if one or more of the Detroit Three is allowed to fail.

Parts companies already run on razor-thin margins, and a bankruptcy of one of the big automakers would mean suppliers would not be paid. That would lead to a catastrophic chain reaction that would ripple through the industry, said Linda Hasenfratz, president and chief executive of Linamar Corp.

More than 65 per cent of suppliers to Ford, GM and Chrysler also supply Toyota Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., so even the offshore-based manufacturers would be hard hit.

Worries of a bankruptcy of one or all of the Detroit Three are reflected in Linamar's share price, which is down 79 per cent since the start of the year at $4.20.

No Canadian autoparts manufacturer has escaped being clobbered this year. Magna International Inc.'s stock is down 56 per cent at $35.76, and Martinrea International Inc. is down 84 per cent at $1.94. REUTERS

Sales to Detroit

- Thirty-five per cent of Linamar's sales go to the Detroit Three, according to RBC Capital Markets. For Magna, that number jumps to 52 per cent, and it's about 80 per cent for Martinrea.

Philippines **Ho, ho, ho, hee, hee**

CHERYL RAVELO/REUTERS

An orangutan wearing a Santa Claus outfit interacts with zoo visitors for a promotional event for the Christmas holiday season at Malabon Zoo in Manila yesterday.

No word on auto bailout 'for a while': White House

AID The White House said it did not expect any announcement on an auto industry rescue plan before President George W. Bush returns to the United States from an unannounced trip to Iraq.

"I just don't expect anything for a while," White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said, responding to a question on whether an announcent would be made during Bush's trip on whether the administration would tap a $700 billion US financial-industry bailout fund to aid ailing automakers.

Perino said she had no timetable for such a decision. REUTERS

Business in brief

CREDIT CARDS The U.S. Federal Reserve is to vote Thursday on credit-card reforms that may bring some relief to customers who face a variety of ways for being hit with late fees, universal defaults, shorter payment periods and confusing payment allocations for different balances.

REAL ESTATE A revival in the U.S. real-estate market should begin by next spring, property mogul Sam Zell told an Israeli business conference yesterday.

CLIMATE CHANGE Developing nations accused the rich of meanness Saturday at the end of U.N. climate talks that launched only $80 million US to help poor countries cope with droughts, floods and rising seas. REUTERS

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Nesbitt captures gold
Canada's Christine Nesbitt won the women's 1,000-metre yesterday at a World Cup long-track speedskating meet in Japan. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Morison wins giant slalom

Matthew Morison, left, of Burketon, Ont., won the Giant Slalom event at the FIS World Cup snowboarding stop in Italy yesterday. Morison beat France's Sylvain Dufour, while Canadian teammate Jasey Jay Anderson finished third. On the women's side, Doris Guenther of Austria won gold just ahead of Calgary's Kimiko Zakreski. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Junior roster coming today

HOCKEY Hockey Canada will announce today its roster for the world junior championship after wrapping up a three-day selection camp last night in Ottawa.

John Tavares, Jamie Benn and Tyler Ennis were the leading scorers in three intra-squad scrimmages.

Tavares, an Oakville, Ont., native who helped Canada win gold at last year's world junior championship, piled up four goals and an assist.

Benn, a Dallas Stars draft choice, had three goals and an assist, while Tyler Ennis, a Buffalo Sabres first-rounder, had a goal and four assists.

Brett Sonne and Jordan Eberle had two goals and an assist each.

Head coach Pat Quinn will announce the roster today at 8:15 a.m. at a news conference at SensPlex in Kanata, Ont.

Thirty-eight players were invited to the selection camp, and 22 will be named to the team. The world junior starts Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa. Canada has won four consecutive gold medals at the event.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO CANADA

Basford's hat trick leads Giants

WHL Adam Basford scored three goals to lead the Vancouver Giants to a 6-0 win over Prince George Cougars last night.
It was the first WHL hat trick for Richmond native Basford. Giants captain Jon Blum recorded three assists in his final game before joining Team USA for the upcoming world junior hockey championship in Ottawa.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 13 Tampa Bay 10 (OT)
Carolina 30 Denver 10
Cincinnati 20 Washington 13
Houston 13 Tennessee 12
Indianapolis 31 Detroit 21
Jacksonville 20 Green Bay 16
Miami 14 San Francisco 9
Minnesota 35 Arizona 14
New England 49 Oakland 26
N.Y. Jets 31 Buffalo 27
Pittsburgh 13 Baltimore 9
San Diego 22 Kansas City 21
Seattle 23 St. Louis 20
Dallas 20 N.Y. Giants 8

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Chicago 27 New Orleans 24 (OT)

TONIGHT'S GAME
Cleveland at Philadelphia

Demitra's pair leads Canucks past Panthers

NHL RESULT

Canucks 5 Panthers 3

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

THE SKINNY: Pavol Demitra scored two of Vancouver's four goals in the second period as the Canucks erased an early 2-0 deficit and cruised to the win.
Darcy Hordichuk, Kyle Wellwood and Ryan Kesler each found the back of the net while Cory Schneider was forced to make just 18 saves for his second career win.

THE GOAL: Wellwood's power-play marker was an exhibition in hand-eye coordination. Daniel Sedin flipped the puck across the crease to Wellwood, who calmly batted the puck out of mid-air into the back of the net.

THE SLUMPBUSTER: Kesler's shorthanded tally was his first goal since Nov. 15, a span of fourteen games.

THE BAD HOSTS: The Canucks have been stingy at home, allowing just 19 goals in 12 games this season. Vancouver's been an even tougher place to play for Florida, as the Panthers have never won a game in GM Place.
Florida's only win in Vancouver came at the Pacific Coliseum back in 1994.

REUTERS/LYLE STAFFORD

The Canucks' Jannik Hansen hits Florida's Ville Peltonen into the boards last night.

THE RATING: The second period was easily the most entertaining; some sloppy play by both teams in the first and third. 3½ out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: It's Trevor Linden night on Wednesday, as the former captain's jersey will be raised to the rafters.
Oh, yeah – the Canucks host the Oilers that night as well.

Luongo's absence starting to show

Not since Hugh Hefner's last birthday bash has one man's groin received so much attention. Roberto Luongo addressed the media yesterday for the first time since aggravating his injury during practice on Wednesday.

While speculation has the Canucks captain missing anywhere from two to eight weeks with the strain, Luongo himself was extremely vague on the matter. "There's no timetable — it's week to week," declared the club's meal ticket yesterday morning before stating that he will not return to ice until he is 100 per cent.

Though the Canucks are telling anyone who'll listen that Curtis Sanford and Cory Schneider are more than capable of backstopping them through Luongo's absence, the numbers tell a different story thus far. Sanford and Schneider are allowing an average of one more goal per game than Luongo had been. True, goaltending hasn't been the determining factor in all of the losses, but it's reasonable to suggest that setbacks to Calgary, Columbus and Colorado could have been prevented by the number one netminder, as Vancouver held third period leads in each of those games.

• If he feels like it, Mats Sundin will decide on a place to play at some point in the next week. His agent, JP Barry, says they are just gathering some final information from each of the interested teams before making a decision.

Based on salary and need for offence, Vancouver represents the best fit for Sundin, however, the chance to win a Stanley Cup appears more promising in other markets. We're about to find out what's more important to Mats.

• The Lions' decision to cut Jason Clermont was extremely surprising; his decision to sign in Saskatchewan was anything but. The Regina native and resident now gets to work in the same city he and his family live in, and it will also afford him the opportunity to sting the Leos at least three times next season. Wally Buono has turned talented players loose before, but this one feels different.

While no one is suggesting that BC will forget how to win football games without Clermont in the lineup, you get the sense that the bruising slotback will come back to burn them at some point down the road.

Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

ToulBox
Scott Rintoul
scott.rintoul@team1040.ca

Seahawks snap losing streak in St. Louis

NFL ROUNDUP

Seneca Wallace's 45-yard pass to Deion Branch set up Olindo Mare's 27-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Seattle Seahawks a 23-20 win over the St. Louis Rams yesterday.

Wallace, starting his second straight game under centre in place of the injured Matt Hasselbeck, finished 15-of-25 passing for 226 yards. Maurice Morris ran for 86 yards on 15 carries and T.J. Duckett scored the only offensive touchdown for the Seahawks (3-11), who halted a six-game losing streak.

COWBOYS 20, GIANTS 8

The soap opera that is the Dallas Cowboys' offence gets all the attention. The defence, however, is keeping them in the playoff hunt. DeMarcus Ware added three sacks to his NFL-leading total and the Cowboys took down Eli Manning eight times on their way to a crucial 20-8 victory last night. Tony Romo tossed touchdowns to third receiver Patrick Crayton and seldom thrown-to fullback Deon Anderson.

The loss is the Giants' second in a row.

PATRIOTS 49, RAIDERS 26

Matt Cassel threw for 218 yards and four touchdowns on a rainy, muddy day, as the New England Patriots kept pace atop a crowded AFC East with a 49-26 rout of the Oakland Raiders yesterday.

Cassel, who returned to the Pats after his father died last week, completed 18-of-30 passes and also threw an interception, and Randy Moss caught five passes for 67 yards and two touchdowns in his first game against the Raiders since being traded from Oakland following the 2006 season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fullback Deon Anderson of the Dallas Cowboys celebrates his touchdown against the New York Giants yesterday.

Superpest Avery done in Dallas

NHL The Dallas Stars have decided that suspended forward Sean Avery will not return to the team.

Avery was suspended by the NHL for six games without pay earlier this month for crude comments he made to members of the media regarding his ex-girlfriends dating other hockey players. The 28-year-old antagonist was eligible to return to the club yesterday after the six-game ban expired, but the club and representatives for Avery determined it was not possible for the player to rejoin his teammates.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

New Brunswick economic stimulus plan focuses on college investments
The New Brunswick government rolled out the first in a series of new capital investments intended to stimulate the economy. Post Secondary Education is the focus of significant investments, including a $35-million community college in Edmundston and nearly $45-million worth of community college facilities in Saint John. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Keeping income

Post-secondary students in Ontario on social assistance will get to keep any employment income they earn, according to the provincial government's new anti-poverty strategy released last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Party on Wayne Co., party on Garth Ltd.

Despite economic downturn and mounting losses, holiday cheer prevails at some companies

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

While the economic outlook this festive season might be frightful, most office holiday parties will still be delightful according to a recent poll.

In the poll conducted by Harris/Decima for Workopolis, an online career-solutions company, seven out of 10 holiday party decision-makers surveyed in Canada said they will spend the same amount on festivities as they have in past years.

Only 11 per cent of those decision makers said they'll be cancelling the party altogether.

Pat Sullivan, president of Workopolis, said given the current economy, they were surprised to find that 68 per cent of employers said they would not be cutting back on party costs at all.

"Although the economic conditions are difficult, I think we still want to thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done," Sullivan said.

To maintain company morale during tough economic times, Sullivan said, a festive holiday party might be even more crucial this year than ever before.

"I think we still want to thank our employees and still want to tell them what a great job they've done."
Workopolis President Pat Sullivan

While 53 per cent of party organizers said they have not considered any cost-cutting measures, 17 per cent said they plan to cut out some of the holiday cheer: One in five said they would plan for less expensive entertainment or venues; 15 per cent said they would hold the party on company premises to cut costs; 13 per cent said they would hold the party on a weeknight rather than the weekend; 12 per cent said they would invite employees only and not include significant others; and nine per cent said they would hold the party during the day rather than the evening.

And as for employee thoughts on the holiday party being scaled back, 62 per cent said they would understand.

Regardless of the economic landscape, however, a trend that seems to be emerging is for companies not to offer an office holiday party at all.

General Motors, for example, told Metro they did away with the annual event long before the current economic downturn.

"That's something we haven't done on a broad scale for a number of years," said Patty Faith, manager of media relations for General Motors Canada.

The company chooses to spend its time and money on community charities instead, she said.

As for Workopolis itself, they're holding their holiday festivities in January.

"The timing coincides with our sales conference, so that employees from our eight offices across the country have the opportunity to see each other and celebrate the year's successes," Sullivan said.

He added that the company will spend about the same as last year on their holiday celebration.

The Workopolis poll, conducted between Nov. 6 and 10, surveyed a sample of 617 working Canadians by phone, of which 149 are involved with financial decisions regarding workplace holiday parties and 443 are not.

From Space Invaders to working for NASA

OddJobs

Recently, Arn Hyndman drove from Toronto to Ottawa with a work colleague for a meeting. As research and development technologists with Nortel Networks (the company calls them architects), the two didn't chat about the company's stock price or office gossip, they riffed on ideas.

"We were just shooting the breeze. We're inspired by challenges that we see ourselves in the world around us," Hyndman says. They came up with 10 different ideas for possible new technology projects.

It isn't just idle talk. They'll eventually get to make some of these ideas happen.

Hyndman, who's now 37, began inventing technology a young teen on Vancouver Island. His parents declared video games like Space Invaders off limits so, using the family's rudimentary computer, Hyndman designed his own version of the popular game.

It wasn't perfect, but it kept him and his friends amused for awhile. He kept writing programs and then studied computer science at the University of British Columbia. He was eventually hired as a junior developer at Nortel in Ottawa. The company helped finance his masters in software engineering (he minored in human computer interaction) at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

There, he and his classmates solved a problem for NASA: There was a six-second delay between moving the joystick of the remote control for the lunar rover and the thing actually moving, so astronauts would over-steer and even crash it. Hyndman helped invent a new monitor that would predict where the rover would go in real time.

Back at Nortel, Hyndman went on to get patents for various inventions: One that helps compatibility between network devices and their management system, and another that enables you to ID yourself while using a wireless device so you can login or make purchases.

Currently, he's chief architect on a project called web.alive. It will allow people to talk on the web using live voice and 3-D avatars. An alternative to video conferencing, its main use will be for virtual business meetings.

Hyndman spends his days working on the project but during coffee breaks and over lunch and in the hallways, he chats with other architects — there are about 20 at Nortel — about technology problems and possible solutions for fixing them.

"We just throw around ideas all the time."

The Lowdown

Salary: $100,00 to $200,000
Education: A degree in computer science or computer engineering
Worst part of the job: "About 30 per cent of the way into a project, you get 90 per cent of the idea working. Then there's a long curve of polishing and drudgery."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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Dark Knight sets DVD record
The Dark Knight has set a new record after DVD sales soared to nearly 3 million in the U.S., Canada and Britain — three days after its release Tuesday. The Batman film has so far grossed more than $996 million US worldwide. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Oscar host
Actor Hugh Jackman will be the host of the 2009 Academy Awards, organizers have announced.
BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

On the web

Book Picks:
• For this week's book picks on Frozen Tracks by Åke Edwardson, The Heretic Queen by Michelle Moran and Doors Open by Ian Rankin visit *metronews.ca/entertainment*.

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In brief

MUSIC Metallica, Pearl Jam and My Morning Jacket are among the artists featured on Live From Bonnaroo 2008, due out January on DVD. REUTERS

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Renaissance man

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

It's taken Q-Tip nine years to release The Renaissance, the follow up to his 1999 solo debut Amplified.

"I haven't been sitting around doing nothing, I promise," says the Queens, New York rapper best known as one third of eternally cool, legendary '90s hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest. "I'm always in the studio. Always."

The reason we haven't heard the fruits of this recording labour is, as Tip nonchalantly puts it, he's been "going though a couple of things with record labels." More specifically, Arista shelved his original sophomore effort Kamaal the Abstract, claiming it was too obscure and not commercial enough. But that was the past, and last month, the man who was born Jonathan Davis finally had a new product to push.

"I was a little bit nervous," admits the 37-year-old about coming out with an album after almost a decade. "But I liked (the music) and I feel like people trust me for my taste."

His taste has lately been veering to older greats such as Stevie Wonder, Prince, Miles Davis and The Clash, rather than what's rotating on the radio.

As a result, The Renaissance, a mix of his signature smooth nasal flow over jazzy beats and live instruments is a refreshing throwback to a purer time in hip hop. It's mellow, but with enough boom bat to get your head bobbing.

The lyrics, however — dealing with war, the economy and even including excerpts taken from one of Barack Obama's speeches — are very now. He says it's serendipitous that The Renaissance, was released on the same day Obama was elected president.

"We have a socio-political renaissance with this new president, and I feel like we're in the middle of an artistic renaissance," Tip excitedly rattles off his theory. "People are looking for more value in their music, in literature, in film, theater, just all across, people are looking for taste.

"It's a great time," he says. "And I'm just happy to be able to offer this now."

The Renaissance is the latest CD from Q-Tip. UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

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weekend box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres:

1. **The Day the Earth Stood Still:** $31 million US
2. **Four Christmases:** $13.3 million
3. **Twilight:** $8 million
4. **Bolt:** $7.5 million
5. **Australia:** $4.3 million
6. **Quantum of Solace:** $3.8 million
7. **Nothing Like the Holiday:** $3.5 million
8. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $3.3 million
9. **Milk:** $2.6 million
10. **Transporter 3:** $2.3 million

REUTERS

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/15/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Grinch-C'mas	Frosty	The Border "Shifting Waters"		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Name Is Earl	How I Met	How I Met	Worst Week	Final 24 (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami "Tipping Point" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	The Practice "Hide and Seek"		One Tree Hill (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	Randall Mark	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Prison Break "Going Under"		Heroes "Duality" (N) (CC)		My Own Worst Enemy (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	Samantha	Stargate Atlantis (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (N) (CC)		Rita Rocks	Rita Rocks	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami "Tipping Point" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Heroes "Duality" (N) (CC)		My Own Worst Enemy (N)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	what's cooking		Under the Mistletoe (2006, Drama) Jaime Ray Newman.				Shopping
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	I Want a Dog-Charlie Brown		20/20 More than 100 students audition for a show. (N) (CC)				KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Forget Paris ★★★ (1995) Billy Crystal, Debra Winger.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		Magnificent Mind at Any Age With Dr. Daniel Amen (CC)				Brain Fitness
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break "Going Under"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	(6:00) Great Performances		American Soundtrack: Doo Wop's Greatest Hits (CC)				Best of Johnny Cash Show		Play Piano
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Paid Program	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Unit (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26 NW	Royal Riders (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Royal Riders (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	World Combat League (CC)		Hockey	World Sport	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NFL Football: Browns at Eagles			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Motoring 2009	Billiards: International Chall.		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Departures "Thailand" (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides (CC)		Departures
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Cabby Unlimit
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Car	Car	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Ole: La Liga		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Merry Christmas		Scrooged ★★★ (1988) Bill Murray, Karen Allen. (CC)				Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Daniel Cook	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	History of Britain "Dynasty"		The Real Jane Austen		Wipe Out (CC)		Haida Art
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country	Gone Country		Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	On Set: T.I.	NewMusic	MuchVibe (CC)		Live in the Lot: Fall Out Boy		MuchOnDemand (CC)		MuchMeg
	600	564	29 H&G	Income Prop.	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Marriage	Income Prop.	My First Place	Home to Stay
	615	520	31 A&E	Manhunters	Manhunters	The First 48 (CC)		Intervention "Tom" (CC)		Intervention "Janet" (CC)		Manhunters
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		I Bet You Will	MANswers	CSI: NY "All Access" (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	Wealth Hunters (CC)		Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Wealth Hunters (CC)		Little People
	616	522	39 SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane (CC)		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40 BVO	Dance Atlantic	Dance Me	Law & Order "High & Low"		Without a Trace (CC)		The Minus Man ★★★ (1999) Owen Wilson.		
	601	562	41 SLC	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Dirty Jobs New York jobs.		Canada's Worst Driver (CC)		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Under Covers" (CC)		Battle 360 (CC)		Underworld Histories (CC)		NCIS "Under Covers" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Eureka (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Lost (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	Earl	Name Is Earl	Leverage "The Nigerian Job"		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	A Time to Kill ★★★ (1996) Sandra Bullock.		
	619	525	48 TROP	TV Made	Very Bad Men (CC)		What	Make	TV Made	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24 (CC)
	603	561	52 FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge Luau menus. (CC)		Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Nightmares
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jeff Dunham: Arguing		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Stargate Atlantis "Identity" (N)		Californication	Tracey Ullman	Brotherhood (N) (CC)		Sublime (2007) Thomas Cavanaugh. (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills (N)	After Show	MTV Live	MTV News	A Double Shot of Love		The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	I'll Be Home for Christmas ★		Origins of Christmas (CC)		I'll Be Home for Christmas ★ (1998) Jessica Biel (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
You have to love the little happy dog wearing reindeer antlers — you have to! If you don't, you're a Grinch. This 1966 Dr. Seuss animated classic teaches the value of giving, caring and having a nonmaterialistic Christmas. Boris Karloff's rich voice just adds to the feeling of being surrounded by a warm blanket this time of year. 8 PM on CBC

20/20
With the "High School Musical" movie franchise riding a wave of popularity, the new report "Drama High: The Making of a High School Musical" gets up-close and personal with a real high-school production. As the title suggests, drama is in plentiful supply, as more than 100 students at this Virginia school want to be in the show, but it's "The Wiz," so there are only four lead roles. Break a leg, kids! 9 PM on ABC

Rashad speaking for Jenny Craig
Phylicia Rashad, who is best know for her role as Clair Huxtable on The Cosby Show, is the latest actress to be tapped as a spokeswoman for Jenny Craig. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Tara's in rehab

HEALTH Actress Tara Reid is in rehab, People.com reports.

"Tara Reid has checked herself into Promises Treatment Center. We appreciate your respect to her and her family's privacy at this time," the actress' rep Jack Ketsoyan told People.

Ketsoyan would not reveal what Reid, 33, is being treated for.

A friend of Reid says she headed to the treatment facility on Tuesday.

"Her friends and family are supportive of her decision," said the friend. "She checked in herself — it was her decision."

It is unclear if Reid will spend the holidays at Promises.

In an interview in October, Reid told People she was a "social drinker" who enjoyed an occasional glass of wine with friends.

Asked if she was ever tempted to fall back into old habits, Reid said: "No. I've done it. Trust me. I've done enough for a lifetime of everything. I've had a great time. I partied. I had fun. I ate and drank whatever. I dated a million guys, but I'm so happy with where I'm at right now."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kanye the intern?

FASHION Kanye West is to embark on a fashion internship in London, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The rapper is reportedly so determined to carve out a successful career designing clothes he is willing to start from the bottom and has been writing to fashion houses in Europe — including Louis Vuitton on London's Bond Street — asking for experience.

"I'm going to go and take an internship and just do something that's like completely normal, and just rap at the weekends or something," West says.

Designer Raf Simons confirmed West had approached him about an internship, but admitted he was unsure whether to take him on.

"I was blown away from the planet when he told me. I know he's very serious about this … But how can I imagine him being my intern? It's a very extreme situation," Simons says.

West is working on his Pastelle clothing line, which is set to debut next year.

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gwyn, Chris' union 'safe'

MARRIAGE Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's marriage is safe and strong, according to the Oscar winner's close pal, chef Mario Batali, imdb.com reports.

Paltrow has been spotted partying in the U.S. with her pop star friend Madonna, while Martin tours the U.K. with his band Coldplay, prompting rumours their five-year marriage is in trouble.

Reports last week even suggested the couple planned to spend Christmas together in London in a bid to save their relationship.

But Batali, who shot a TV cookery show with Paltrow in Spain this summer, insists there's no truth to the rumours.

"Not true. I see them all the time. I don't think they're having problems," he tells Ok! magazine. Batali adds the pair's kids, Apple and Moses, help to keep their marriage strong.

"If you meet their kids, their kids are cool," he says. "Their kids have the fascination with new and open-eyed experiences. They're delightful. Which means they're being taken care of at home by their parents. That's the key. They're really stay-at-home parents in a way that only rock stars and Academy Award winning actors can be."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

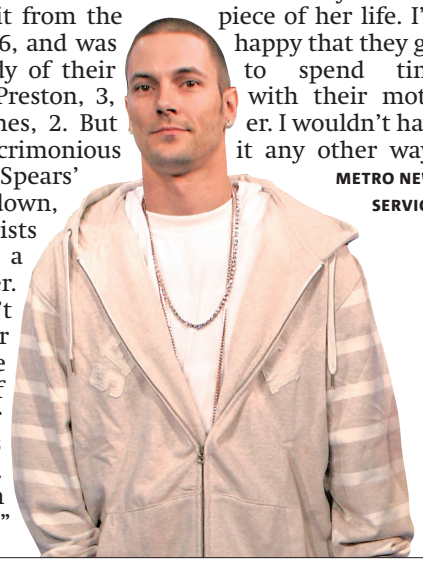
Federline praises Spears

PARENTING Kevin Federline has praised his ex-wife Britney Spears' parenting skills, insisting the singer is a "great" mom, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Federline split from the pop star in 2006, and was awarded custody of their children Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2. But despite their acrimonious breakup and Spears' public meltdown, Federline insists the Spears is a brilliant mother.

"I haven't been around her too much in the last couple of years but other than that, she's a great mother. Really hands-on with the kids," he tells Hello magazine.

"She spends a lot of time with them. She loves to play with them a lot. She really cares about them and I know they're a big piece of her life. I'm happy that they get to spend time with their mother. I wouldn't have it any other way."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carey's video 'perfect' proposal

ENGAGEMENT Pop star Mariah Carey forced her husband Nick Cannon to propose twice so she could capture the "perfect moment" on film, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Carey made her Cannon get down on one knee again, a day after his initial surprise proposal.

"The next day, he took me on a helicopter ride around the Empire State Building," she says. "He got down on one knee and proposed again — someone was filming us this time because I decided I wanted a record of this perfect moment."

The recording came as a change of heart for the star, who had initially decided to keep the intimate moment private.

When she first discovered the 15-carat diamond ring hidden in a candy wrapper, she ran to turn off a video camera so she could secretly celebrate.

"I feel like everything in my life is always on film and I wanted this moment to be private. And I was so happy that I cried," Carey says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Johansson refutes quotes

PEOPLE Fans might have guessed that actor Ryan Reynolds had a romantic side, but not because his wife Scarlett Johansson said so, E! News Online reports.

A rep for the actress has lashed out at Cosmopolitan's U.K. edition, calling its January cover story on Johansson an "obvious attempt … to gain monetarily by misinforming their readers."

Not only were marriage-related quotations attributed to Johansson "wholly fabricated," but Johansson "has at no point granted U.K. Cosmopolitan an interview, and she has never discussed her personal relationships with the publication," her rep said in a statement.

So where did the quotes come from?

Not Johansson, according to her camp.

"Ms. Johansson, who goes to great lengths to preserve an authentic representation of herself with respect to her fans and the media, is disappointed to see a seemingly reputable publication inexplicably publish a work of fiction at her expense," the statement continued.

Legal action will be taken, her rep promised.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Walsh's whirlwind romance over

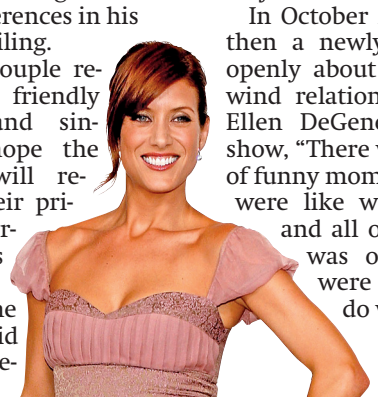
DIVORCE Actress Kate Walsh and her husband, Alex Young, are divorcing, imdb.com reports.

According to court papers obtained by People, Young, 37, petitioned for a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences in his Nov. 22 filing.

"The couple remain on friendly terms and sincerely hope the media will respect their privacy during this difficult time," the pair said in a statement.

The Private Practice star, 41, wed Young, a production co-president at 20th Century Fox, on Sept. 1, 2007, in the town of Ojai, just north of Los Angeles, after becoming engaged in May.

In October 2007, Walsh, then a newlywed, talked openly about their whirlwind relationship, telling Ellen DeGeneres on her show, "There was this kind of funny moment, after we were like we're married and all of the hoopla was over and we were like, 'What do we do now?'" other."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dane dismisses Knight rumours

TELEVISION Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane has blasted reports T.R. Knight has quit the show, insisting he is still shooting scenes, imdb.com says.

Rumours have circulated that Knight is to leave the hit medical drama, but Dane is adamant he's heard nothing from producers confirming the reports.

"Not that I know of," Dane said after being asked if the rumour is true. "I was with him yesterday working, so I don't know. Until (show creator) Shonda Rhimes tells me he's no longer on the show, he's there."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

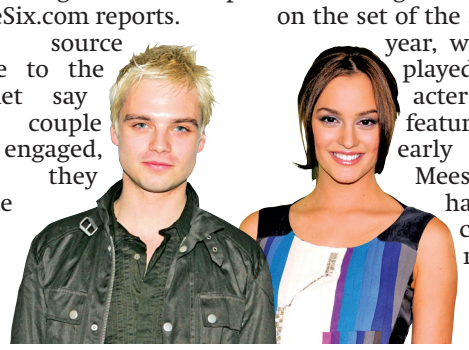
Gossip Girl stars engaged: Report

RELATIONSHIPS Gossip Girl star Leighton Meester and her beau, Sebastian Stan, are taking the next step, PageSix.com reports.

A source close to the starlet say the couple are engaged, and they made the announcement on their "secret" Facebook pages.

Meester and Stan have been dating since they met on the set of the show last year, when Stan played a character who was featured in two early episodes.

Meester's rep had "no comment."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network
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Today Sunny -5° / -6°
Tuesday Sunny -2° / -5°
Wednesday Partly cloudy -1° / -8°

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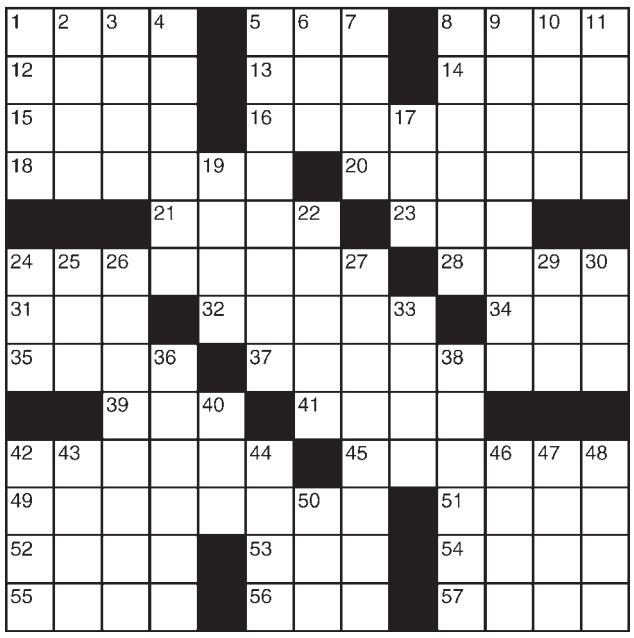
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Saxophone range
5 Nov. follower
8 Impale
12 Benefit
13 "— Yankee Doodle Dandy ..."
14 Ocean motion
15 Farmland measure
16 Ross and backup
18 Looseleaf-paper holder
20 Lucky dice rolls
21 Prison, in Portsmouth
23 Shriner's cap
24 2007 comedy movie
28 Nary a soul
31 — out a living
32 Le Pew and Le Moko
34 Convent dweller
35 Catherine — -Jones
37 Quash
39 Tokyo's old name
41 Actress Gilpin
42 Straying
45 Some hosiery
49 Imagined
51 Press
52 Map
53 Past
54 One billionth (Pref.)
55 Longings
56 Director Howard
57 Radiate

Crossword down

1 Common rhyme scheme
2 Places
3 Undecided
4 Nervous
5 Strips
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Uppercase
8 Spielberg or Bochco
9 Eastern or Pacific, e.g.
10 Mideast gulf
11 Harry's first lady
17 Ump
19 O.K. Corral VIP
22 Drink, as a puppy might
24 "— you!"
25 Guitar's island kin
26 Barrie boy
27 Trust
29 Greek consonants
30 Navy rank (Abbr.)
33 Agile
36 Tweaks
38 Angering
40 Yoko of music
42 Catch sight of
43 Hold the scepter
44 Despot
46 Exam format
47 Admonition to Nanette
48 Winter forecast
50 Id counterpart

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

				9		7	2	5
8	2		3	5			9	
						1		
			8					7
3	5		4		2		1	9
1					6			
		3						
	1			8	3		4	6
7	8	9		6				

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

P	A	R	■	D	O	C	S	■	S	A	K	E
I	D	I	■	E	X	I	T	■	C	L	O	G
P	A	P	A	B	E	A	R	■	O	L	I	O
S	M	A	R	T	Y	■	I	P	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	E	■	P	E	P	P	E	R
A	L	T	A	R	■	F	E	Z	■	E	R	E
T	O	R	Y	■	C	O	D	■	B	R	I	E
O	D	A	■	W	A	X	■	C	A	M	E	L
P	I	P	P	I	N	■	V	O	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	N	A	■	A	R	M	A	D	A
B	R	A	N	■	P	U	P	P	Y	D	O	G
B	A	L	I	■	E	R	O	S	■	E	V	E
C	H	I	C	■	S	I	R	E	■	N	E	D

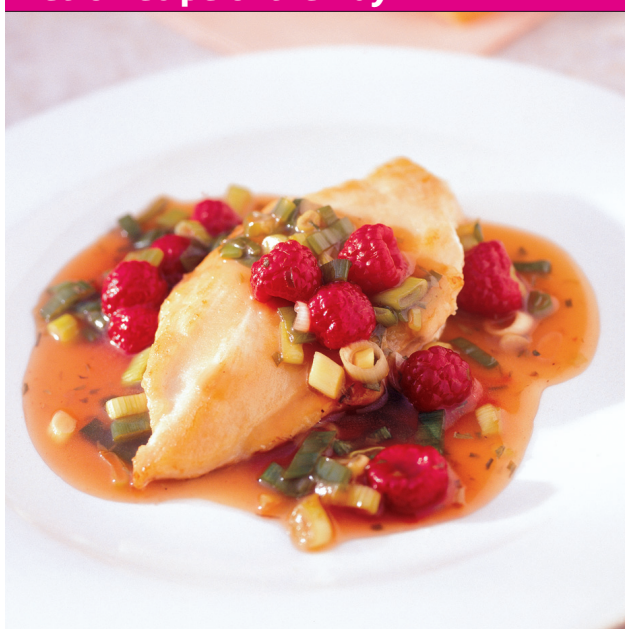
3	8	9	1	7	5	6	4	2
6	5	4	2	3	8	1	7	9
7	1	2	9	6	4	5	8	3
1	6	8	5	4	2	9	3	7
4	7	5	3	9	1	8	2	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	4	1	5
8	4	6	7	5	3	2	9	1
2	9	7	4	1	6	3	5	8
5	3	1	8	2	9	7	6	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Raspberry Chicken Breasts

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 1 1/2 pounds/750 g)
2 tbsp (25 mL) flour
4 scallions, thinly sliced
4 tsp (20 mL) sugar
1/3 cup (75 mL) raspberry vinegar or red wine vinegar
3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken broth
1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried tarragon
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) cornstarch blended with 1 tbsp (15 mL) water
1/2 pint (550 mL) raspberries

METHOD:

1. In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Dredge chicken in flour, shaking off excess. Add chicken to pan and sauté 4 minutes per side or until golden brown. With slotted spoon, transfer chicken to plate.
2. Add scallions to pan and cook 1 minute or until soft. Add sugar and cook 4 minutes or until sugar has melted and is amber in colour. Add vinegar and bring to a boil.
3. Add broth, tarragon and salt, and bring to a boil. Return chicken to pan, reduce to simmer, cover and cook 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
4. Transfer chicken to dinner plates. Return sauce to a boil, whisk in cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute or until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in raspberries. Spoon sauce over chicken.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A banking issue unnerves a leader. Someone will spare your feelings. Don't protect yourself from reality.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
An optimistic person will give you hope. Your sincere commitment will impress a demanding man. Give your self-esteem a pep talk.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Have a good excuse handy if you're accused of being tricky. A dream makes you feel vague and unmotivated. Waste some time with fools.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It's a good time for unusual solutions. An amusing person wants to meet you. A manager wants you to help to stabilize a situation.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You can value the advice offered by a rude person. Take steps to secure your financial position. A matter must be dealt with now.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't reveal your identity to a mistrustful cyber-pal. A comical man chuckles when you chat. Someone rejects your wise advice.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A plucky woman uncovers hidden pleasures. Take your time while running errands. A creative associate challenges your intelligence.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A big-hearted man doesn't want to intimidate you. Being in the wrong place leads you to a troubled person. A crook tries to cheat someone.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A gossip queen gives an invitation. Reward yourself for your charitable acts. Trust your instincts with fascinating information.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Love and money won't come easily. A friend struggles with a decision. There'll be laughter when you go in the wrong direction.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Refuse to argue with a dishonest person. Be sensitive to a bully's anxious state. A brilliant person will share a heavenly experience.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There's anger due to an older person's deception. Be more aware of emotional undercurrents in public. Don't go on a blind date yet.

This day in history

DEC. 15, 1791: The United States Bill of Rights becomes law when ratified by the Virginia legislature.
DEC. 15, 1960: Richard Paul Pavlick is arrested for attempting to blow up and assassinate the U.S. President-Elect, John F. Kennedy only four days earlier.
DEC. 15, 1961: In Jerusalem, Adolph Eichmann is sentenced to death after being found guilty of 15 criminal charges, including charges of crimes against humanity.
DEC. 15, 2005: The 2005 Atlantic Power Outage began, causing hundreds of thousands of people along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. to suffer power outages.

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